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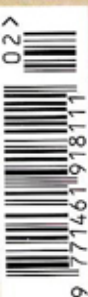
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RECALL 29/01/2008

ask a designer

In need of decorating advice? Trying to find a particular product? Our design guru is here to help



Mark Garside runs top design company Crystallise. As well as designing bespoke furniture for media companies and exhibitions, including the Royal College of Art and the South Bank Festival, he is a design trends consultant for Wella's salon division, Welonda. He also collaborates with his author wife, Kate Lennard, on children's books. If you have any design queries, contact him at etc@markgarside.com and he'll answer as many questions as possible.

Q We've had an extension done, and need new doors for the ground floor, but all the ones we've seen are dreadful. Does anyone make trendy doors these days?

Martin, Luton

A They're not as easy to find as you'd think. New building regulations mean a development of a Victorian home may require old pine doors to be replaced with fire doors – always check with your local council. The big manufacturers come up with the odd tasteful design (although attractive fire doors are still thin on the ground), and check out Jeld Wen's new Shaker range, from £164.50 (jeld-wen.co.uk) and Dooria's Fjordtre doors, from around £66 (dooria.net).



Q I've been searching for some bold, flowery-type wallpapers and have been overwhelmed by the choice. It's for a whole room, so I don't want it to be too overbearing. Any ideas?

Samuel, London

A A lot of the trendy wallpapers have been a little over exposed, so I've picked out some lesser known patterns from Jocelyn Warner (jocelynwarner.com). You could try something simple but strong, such as her fantastic Flora design in Slate (top right), £59 per 10m roll, or Leaf Blue/Lilac (right), £99 per 10m roll.



Q How can we make our lounge feel bigger and brighter? It's overshadowed by a neighbouring development and often feels closed in and gloomy. The lounge has a central pendant lamp and a corner floor lamp.

Hannah, Northampton

A To really create a feeling of space, light the furthest wall that you first see when you enter the room, as lit areas appear further away. Another trick is to flood light into the four corners of the room. Try complementing the pendant with spotlights that will illuminate the walls better and add an overall more ambient light.

